



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for APRIL 2019

*Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond*

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## WING TIPS



- **WING CONFERENCE**: The 2019 Wing Conference was held from 26-28 April in Brookings. Unfortunately, a freak snowstorm created treacherous driving condition that resulted in a travel safety alert from the conference's organizers which resulted in diminished attendance. Nevertheless, a substantial group of officers and cadets gathered at the conference venue for a wide variety of functional area status reports, various training opportunities and a banquet at which numerous awards were presented.





- **PIERRE SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:** The weather finally cooperated (mostly) and we had a successful event in Pierre the weekend of 6 April. Saturday morning dawned foggy and dreary - not only were CAP aircraft grounded but it was also below weather minimums for UAV work. Nonetheless teams headed to the airport for aircrew and mission base work and to Farm Island for ground team and UAV training. By about 0900 Farm Island had cleared enough so SM Tom Simmons was able to demonstrate several advanced UAVs with infrared for night search and other useful capabilities. The scenario for the ground team was a missing female believed to be in the northwest end of Farm Island. She hadn't been seen since Friday morning when she left the house for a nature walk. The "dummy" was hidden in some reeds on Farm Island and a yellow striped shirt placed along the shoreline as a clue. UAV flights were flown under the control of SM Tom Simmons and Col. David Small, both commercial licensed UAV operators, from the campground side of the lagoon out over the northwest end of Farm Island. Drone imaging was able to locate both the missing person as well as the discarded shirt. As happens with training, the location of the subject found by the drone was not communicated to the ground branch director, so the ground teams had to search the old fashioned way - and they were ultimately successful in rescuing the missing hiker. Meanwhile, back at the airport, conditions had cleared enough by noon so that aircrew training sorties were launched searching for a "missing" aircraft. Three air sorties provided valuable training in homing in on a training beacon. At the end of the day good training had occurred. UAVs promise to be an extremely effective tool for ground teams. More training and development of best practices is needed but this was the first exercise developed around UAVs. The SAREX has been extended into most of April so that other crew can get training under other scenarios.



LEFT: A DRONE IS LAUNCHED ON A SEARCH MISSION IN A FORESTED AREA OF FARM ISLAND

RIGHT: A DRONE'S-EYE VIEW OF THE "MISSING HIKER" TARGET IS A THICKET OF WEEDS ON FARM ISLAND



- **NEW CAP-USAF COMMANDER:** Col. Mark Wootan officially became the 31st commander of Civil Air Patrol-U.S. Air Force (CAP-USAF) today. In a ceremony in the main hangar at Maxwell Air Force Base, Wootan assumed command from Col. Michael D. Tyynismaa, who has led CAP-USAF since August 2014. As CAP-USAF commander, Wootan is responsible for ensuring CAP is organized, trained and equipped to fulfill Air Force-assigned missions. CAP-USAF provides day-to-day support, advice and liaison to CAP's more than 60,000 members and provides oversight for CAP programs, with emphasis on safety and program requirements. CAP-USAF personnel are also the primary function interface between other federal agencies and CAP. CAP-USAF is staffed with about 200 active-duty, reservist and civilian airmen at CAP National Headquarters at Maxwell AFB and locations in New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, Georgia, Minnesota, Texas, Colorado, California and Florida, as well as in Puerto Rico and

at several overseas Air Force installations. Wootan, with 30-plus years of active-duty Air Force service in international relations, military operations, command and defense, has served as national vice commander of CAP-USAF since July 2018.

- **MONTANA WING CONFERENCE:** Montana Wing is holding its annual wing conference on 18 May 2019 in Missoula, MT, at the Holiday Inn Downtown. We would be delighted to have any of your members attend. Maj Gen Mark Smith will be visiting with us, and our guest speaker at the banquet will be Major General Matthew T. Quinn, Adjutant General for the State of Montana. There are links on the web page at <https://mtwg.cap.gov/members/conference> for both conference registration and hotel reservation.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew five aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over three days in April in support of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) and South Dakota State University (SDSU). Both organizations have continually ongoing research projects surveying mountain lions, bobcats, swift foxes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. The result was 13.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.8 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 17.5 flying hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, two sorties; and Lt. Col. Russ Limke, 2 sorties and Capt. Neil Schmid, one sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot was accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P.

## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- John Desmarais, Director of CAP Operations, sends: FEMA/EMI has announced another *ICS Instructor Train-the-Trainer* class on 19-23 August 2019. If you or one of your trusted and experienced emergency services personnel is interested in attending, contact Lt. Col. Bob Ditch ([rditch@cap.gov](mailto:rditch@cap.gov)), our EMI Liaison. <https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/2017/1325%20revised%20%20training%20opportunity%20%20e449%20ics%20curricula%20ttt%20fy%2018datechange.pdf?d=9/25/2017> lists the prerequisites and instructions. This course will teach the new ICS 300 course being released later this month. Don't send applications directly to EMI, send them to Lt. Col. Bob Ditch for processing at [rditch@cap.gov](mailto:rditch@cap.gov). If you have any questions, Bob can also be reached at 480-298-2603. Since this is a TTT, EMI expects me to approve our applicants. Bob will review the applications to make sure they are good to go, and send them on to me for processing.

- **FINANCIAL AUDIT:** Our wing just successfully passed a financial inspection by NHQ. Our score is only one point away from perfect - and I haven't heard of any Wing receiving a perfect score. We owe thanks to Wing Administrator Rachel Kuecker and Wing Director of Finance Lt. Col. Tom Bass for their diligence and hard work. North Central Region Commander, Col. Regena Aye, commented "This is a great testament to the hard work and dedication of the team in South Dakota Wing. Kudos to all involved!" FYI, SD Wing has had a low rating for the past 3 years!

- **NEW WING TRANSPORTATION OFFICER:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Alfred Heinrich is the new Transportation Officer for the Wing. If you need a CAP Driver's License he is your point of contact. If you need a new, or need to



renew your CAP Driver's License please e-mail him ([Alfred.heinrich@sdcap.us](mailto:Alfred.heinrich@sdcap.us)) a scanned copy of your driver's license along with a copy of your Drivers Record Request Form with the proper signatures. If he has a scanned copy of both, Driver's License and Driver's Request Form, he should be able to process your request within a week. These driving records are free to us if we follow the proper channels. If you need a WEX Fuel Pin number please e-mail him and Wing Administrator Rachel Kuecher ([rkuecker@capnhq.gov](mailto:rkuecker@capnhq.gov)) a copy of your the Fleet Card Request Form with the proper signatures. We can be best reached at the following email:

- **NOTES FROM THE WING ADMINISTRATOR:** My e-mail address is still: [rkuecker@capnhq.gov](mailto:rkuecker@capnhq.gov) (it will not change). I would like to thank all members for the finance audit getting high marks. This audit reflects not on my job, but the paperwork that is done by the members. I cannot do my job without all of you doing the proper paperwork. Friendly reminder from the Director of Finance, Tom Bass – You have 60 days to submit for reimbursement per the CAP Reg. 173-1

- **NEW WING DC:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryon Skaggs has agreed to become the SD Wing Director of Communications. Ryon brings extensive knowledge of HF radio, CAP FM radios as well as the state radio system. Ryon is a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron. I'd also like to thank Maj. Jerry Gabert for his almost seven years of service as Wing DC. Jerry is taking a well-deserved break.

- Congratulations to Lt. Col. Linda Buechler who trained 20 Wing personnel in her Teaching Leaders of Cadets (TLC) course held during the 2019 Wing Conference!



## **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, CAP

- **OPERATIONS UPDATE:** The wing calendar is up to date with training opportunities abounding. Please set aside the following dates to ensure you get the training you need:

May 17 – Wing Communication Exercise

May 18 – FSD / SPF Split SAREX

June 1 – CUT SAREX (Come All)

July 27 – G-1000 Class in PIR

Aug 2-4 – GT Academy in PHP

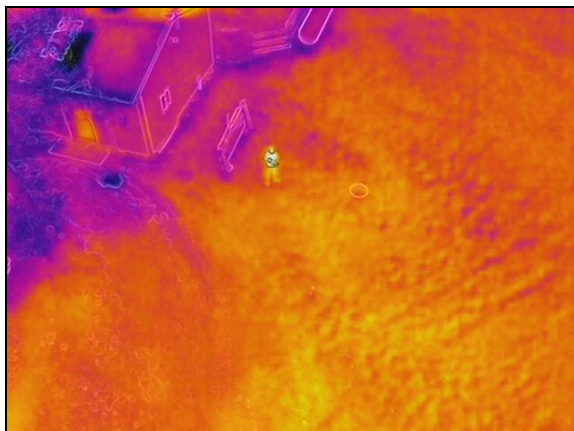
Aug 24 – RAP / BKX Split SAREX

Sep 6-8 – CUT Mountain Flying Clinic

- **FUEL REIMBURSEMENT:** For personal credit card reimbursements for fuel on SDWG Misc. Missions don't expect to get reimbursed like you would for an AF Mission. There's no reason to enter any fuel receipt info in any mission expenses reimbursed by Wing. Instead, fill out a SDWG Form-173 and submit it to our Wing Administrator. You will not get reimbursed for entering your personal credit card receipt on a SDWG Misc. Mission. For Air Force Assigned Missions, you have 72 hours to enter your fuel receipt in WMIRS, but the Wing finance regulation supplement directs you to enter the fuel amount within 24 hours if at all possible.

- **SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (SUAS) UPDATE:** We have our first CAP qualified sUAS pilot in the wing! Col. Small submitted documentation to CAP NHQ showing that he's complied with all of the requirements to operate a UAS for CAP and he has been signed off as a sUAS Evaluator, too! We also took delivery of our second CAP sUAS which is a DJI Mavic Enterprise Dual. Our older and much larger

hexacopter UAV (Pixie) was returned to NHQ for refurbishment, so as of 2, May, we only have one UAV in the wing right now, but we expect to get four more Mavics for the wing any day now.



LEFT: A SELFIE OF COL. SMALL FLYING AN SUAS OPERATING IN THERMAL IMAGING (FLIR) MODE

RIGHT: A DJI MAVIC-2 ENTERPRISE DUAL SUAS

## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

### **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)**

- **AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP:** C/SSgt Alexander Heinrich has been awarded an Aviation Scholarship of \$500 to attend the Regional Glider Academy to be held in New Ulm, Minnesota 12-20 July. Cadets attend ground school and fly several sorties per day in pursuit of their Glider Solo Wings. The selection process just to attend is fiercely competitive. Congratulations to Cadet Heinrich!

- **SQUADRON OUTREACH:** Several squadron members participated in the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast 14 April. Pictured from left to right: C/SSgt Amelia Weiland, C/Amn Kyleeann Dvorak, C/Amn Dominic Dvorak, C/Amn Garrett Weiland, C/SAmn Jordan Weiland and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jody Weiland.



### **LINCOLN COUNTY FLIGHT (SD-07 – TEA)**

- **5<sup>TH</sup> NIGHT:** In a month with five meeting nights the Lincoln County “Lobos” use the fifth meeting night for fun. Members, friends and family had a great time getting to know each other better with a little bowling and planning for future meetings. Low score wins in bowling, right???





## **LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)**



- Maj. Bill Collister joined sixty one Civil Air Patrol officers for executive-level success at the week-long 2019 National Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base. This professional development opportunity enhances the leadership abilities of members who are, or will be, assuming positions of wing, regional or national importance within CAP. The 62 students in this year's class represent 31 CAP wings, a National Headquarters squadron and three CAP region headquarters. Instructors are drawn from the U.S. Air Force's Air University, from senior CAP leadership and other sources of leadership expertise.

## **MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)**



by Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, Wing Chief of Staff, and (right) Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, Wing Vice Commander.

- **CHARTER PRESENTATION:** On 7 April the Miller Flight received its CAP charter from Col Small. Lt. Col. DeWeese, Lt. Col. Gengler, Maj. West and Capt. Oye were also there to help celebrate our new unit. With two CAP aircraft in Miller, we were able to give our cadets orientation rides. It was a great opportunity for our members to interact with Wing staff face-to-face. In the photo Col. Small presents the charter to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rezac. They are flanked (left)





- **COMMS CHAT:** The Miller Flight is on the air! Maj. Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications, has assigned the flight a radio communications package consisting of two EF Johnson 5100 VHF radios and related equipment and 10 ICOM UHF inter-squad radios.

The Flight will hold classes on CAP radio procedures and qualify all our personnel in CAP communications protocols.

## **PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)**



**SQUADRON OF MERIT:** During the awards ceremony the Pierre Squadron was designated a Civil Air Patrol Squadron of Merit for 2019 for exceptional cadet programs performance throughout the year 2018. The squadron appreciably increased its cadet membership during this period. Also, squadron commander 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matthew Tennant was presented the Commanders Commendation Award for Outstanding Duty Performance for the period January 1, 2018 to January 15, 2019. During that period the squadron size increased significantly.

## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)**

• **ELLSWORTH AFB VISIT:** Officers and cadets of the Rushmore Composite Squadron attended the 77th Anniversary Celebration of the Doolittle Raid at Ellsworth Air Force Base on 18 April. The heritage event incorporated all four original Raider squadrons and their aircraft, the B-25 Mitchell bomber. Ellsworth's 34th Bomb Squadron and 37th Bomb Squadron had their B-1s on display, as well as an MQ-9 Reaper from the local 89th Attack Squadron, and an RC-135 from the 95th Reconnaissance Squadron from RAF Mildenhall. Rushmore Cadets were able to sit in the cockpit of the B-1 and see the planes up close. They attended the commemorative ceremony marking the Doolittle Raider flight 77 years ago.



## **SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-50 – SIoux FALLS)**

• **WHO YA GONNA CALL? – NOT GHOSTBUSTERS:** Maj. Jerry Foy, Maj. Karla West and Maj. Jerry Gabert spent some time getting the “Ghostbusters” van ready for the bone yard. The squadron had it from November 2008 until April 2019. Its radios will be put in a new van for Lincoln County. The light bar will be on display at Wing HQ. In 90 days the former CAP 25 will be recycled into four new white Ford Escorts.



### **★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★**

#### **Cadet Officer Promotion**



Congratulations to Mariel Klosterman of Brandon, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and receipt of the milestone Ira Eaker award! The Eaker Award marks the final level of Phase IV – The Executive Phase of the Cadet Program. With her promotion Mariel becomes the second female C/ Lt Col in SDWG!



#### **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Alec Crowser of Philip, a member of Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Hunter Rice of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Matthew Tracy of Summerset, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Chancey Hall of Highmore, a member of the Miller Flight, his on promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Austin Den Hoed of Boyden, IA, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!





## **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Banion Niles of Hot Springs, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Joshua Vermundson of Pierre, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Joseph Lasseter of New Underwood, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Rose McGeorge and Christopher Ward, both of Miller and both members of the Miller Flight, and to Darion Osterkamp of Onida, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on their promotion to The rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Isaiah Lasseter of New Underwood, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and Grace Ingebretsen of Luverne, MN, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



## ★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★

- Congratulations to Capt. Kurt Johnson of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on completing Level III (Management) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program! In recognition thereof he has been awarded the Grover C. Loening Award.



Congratulations to Col. Mary Donley who has received “Technician” rating in the Personnel Specialty Track of the Senior Member Professional Development Program!

## **RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS AT THE 2019 WING COFERENCE:**

1 Clement	Denise	Commanders Commendation	SD-001	Creating new unit
2 Deweese	Buck	Commanders Commendation	SD-001	Glider & suicide program
3 Gross	Tyler	Sorenson Cadet Prog Officer	SD-058	
4 Healy	Matt	Achievement Award	SD-050	
5 Hewett	Gary	Senior OTY	SD-031	
6 Hewett	Gary	Commanders Commendation	SD-031	Glider operations
7 Johnson	Kurt	Safety Officer OTY	SD-050	
8 Keirnes	Duncan	Achievement Award	SD-050	
9 Klosterman	Mariel	Cadet OTY	SD-058	
10 Klosterman	Mimi	Meritorious Service Award	SD-050	Region award
11 Lair	Julia	Cadet Officer OTY (SD Wing)	SD-050	
12 Lair	Greg	Commanders Commendation	SD-050	

13 Meert	Matt	Achievement Award	SD-050	
14 Moline	Andrew	Holm AEO OTY	SD-050	
15 Parke	Blake	Achievement Award	SD-050	
16 Rezac	Richard	Commanders Commendation	SD-001	Developing ground teams
17 Roth	Jacob	Riddle Aircrew Member OTY	SD-050	
18 Roth	Jacob	AFSA Cadet NCO OTY	SD-050	
19 Schuppan	Melanie	Achievement Award	SD-050	
20 Schuppan	Melanie	Property Mgt Officer OTY	SD-050	
21 Steppan	Tim	CDI Officer OTY	SD-001	
22 Tennant	Matt	Commanders Commendation	SD-038	Taking over squadron with less than a year
23 Waldman	Rhea	Commanders Commendation	SD-038	underserved AE
24 Willison	Peter	Commanders Commendation	SD-050	
25 Zurovski	Jerry	Director of Finance OTY	SD-050	

Challenge coin recipients:

### Challenge Coins

14 Buck DeWeese	Glider program
15 Gary Hewett	Glider program
16 Manny Steele	Legislative members
17 Mimi Klosterman	Pierre help
18 Richard Rezac	Miller
19 Denise Clement	Lincoln County
22 EW & Sue Filler	Wing Conference

## ★ ★ LAST DOOLITTLE RAIDER DIES ★ ★



Retired Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole, the final surviving member of the storied Doolittle Raiders died 9 April at age 103. He was remembered in a memorial service at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas on April 18. The memorial service took place exactly 77 years to the day after the daring B-25 bomber raid on mainland Japan. Cole was then-Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot in the lead bomber on the April 18, 1942, mission to strike Japan, a little more than four months after Pearl Harbor. Eighty U.S. Army Air Forces

airmen launched 16 modified B-25B Mitchell bombers from the aircraft carrier Hornet. Their raid caused only minor damage, but boosted morale on the home front considerably, and sent Japan a message that the United States was ready to fight back.





Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, Crew No. 1, 34<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron. From left to right: Lt. Henry A. Potter, navigator; Lt. Col. James Doolittle, pilot; SSgt. Fred Braemer, bombardier; Lt. Richard E. Cole, copilot; SSgt. Paul Leonard, flight engineer/gunner. On the deck of the USS Horner, April 18, 1942

